

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-09 FRB-01 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15

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AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 STR-04 /122 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0977

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJ: EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS MEETING,

JULY 18-19, 1977

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 6567, (B) 76 EC A-382

1. SUMMARY: THE FIRST DAY OF THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF FISHERY MATTERS (REPORTED SEPTEL). DISCUSSIONS ON THE SECOND DAY COVERED AGRICULTURAL ISSUES RELATED TO DAIRY PRODUCTS (UK IMPORTS OF NEW ZEALAND BUTTER AND CHEESE, CORESPONSIBILITY LEVY, AND EXCLUSIVE USE); AIDS TO STARCH PRODUCTION; MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS; AND WINE. THE COUNCIL FELT THAT MORE INDEPTH STUDY IS NECESSARY BEFORE TAKING
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ANY DECISIONS ON THE MAJORITY OF THESE ISSUES, EXCEPT WINE, AND DETAILED DISCUSSIONS THEREFORE WERE POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 26-27.
END SUMMARY.

2. UK IMPORTS OF NEW ZEALAND BUTTER AND CHEESE: THE COUNCIL BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR A

10 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF NEW ZEALAND BUTTER AND CHEESE IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM. NEW ZEALAND HAS REQUESTED PRICE INCREASES OF 24 PERCENT FOR BUTTER AND 27 PERCENT FOR CHEESE. A DECISION ON THE MATTER WAS POSTPONED UNTIL THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 26-27, 1977. SEVERAL MEMBER STATES INDICATED THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED THE PROPOSAL IN SUFFICIENT TIME FOR A THOROUGH REVIEW SO THE COUNCIL INSTRUCTED THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE TO MAKE A STUDY OF THE PROPOSAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. CORESPONSIBILITY LEVY: THE COUNCIL NOTED THE COMMISSION REPORT ON THE CONDITIONS FOR APPLYING THE 1.5 PERCENT CORESPONSIBILITY LEVY IN THE DAIRY SECTOR, WHICH IS TO BECOME EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 16. EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE REPORTS PRIOR TO THE MEETING THAT SOME MEMBER STATES, PARTICULARLY FRANCE, DID NOT WANT TO ENFORCE THE LEVY, THERE WAS NO OPPOSITION VOICED DURING THE COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS.

4. EXCLUSIVE USE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS: THE COUNCIL PROVISIONALLY APPROVED THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH RULES GOVERNING THE MARKETING OF DAIRY PRODUCTS WHICH RELATE TO EXCLUSIVE USE OF MILK FATS AND PROTEINS IN DAIRY PRODUCTS. THE UK, WHICH WAS MOST AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSAL, HAS ACCEPTED A COMMISSION UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPROMISE WHICH STIPULATES THAT ICE CREAM COULD BE LABELLED UNDER THREE CATEGORIES: (A) "DAIRY ICE CREAM," MUST CONSIST OF 100 PERCENT MILK PRODUCTS; (B) "ICE CREAM - FAT CONTENT MAINLY FROM MILK" MUST CONTAIN OVER 50 PERCENT MILK PRODUCT CONTENT; AND (C) "ICE CREAM - FAT CONTENT MAINLY VEGETABLE OR OTHER NON-MILK FAT."

5. AIDS TO STARCH PRODUCTION: THE COUNCIL AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM PRICE PAID TO PRODUCERS OF POTATOES FOR STARCH FROM 172 U.A. PER TON TO 175 U.A. PER TON. THE COMMISSION HAD PROPOSED AN INCREASE TO 178 U.A. PER TON. EXPORT SUBSIDIES ON CORN STARCH WERE INCREASED TO 17 U.A. PER TON FROM 14 U.A. PER TON, EFFECTIVE ON AUGUST 1, 1977 (REF. B).

6. MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURE: THE FRENCH DELEGATION ADVISED THE COUNCIL OF ITS INTENTION TO SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSION A MEMORANDUM CALLING FOR A REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES RELATING TO MEDITERRANEAN COMMODITIES. THE ITALIAN DELEGATION ALSO REMINDED THE COUNCIL OF THE MEMORANDUM IT HAD ALREADY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION ON THIS SUBJECT MATTER (SUMMARY OF ITALIAN MEMO BEING

TRANSMITTED SEPTEL). THE COUNCIL EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE AND AGREED TO MEET TO DISCUSS THE MATTER IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

7. WINE: DISCUSSIONS WERE TECHNICAL IN NATURE.

A. THE COUNCIL ADOPTED A NUMBER OF MEASURES AIMED AT IMPROVING THE WINE CAP PROVISIONS RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS. THESE MEASURES INCLUDE:

(1) A REDEFINITION OF THE PRIVATE STORAGE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GRAPE MUST AND CONCENTRATED GRAPE MUST AND THE CONDITIONS FOR INITIATING PREVENTIVE DISTILLATION AND DISTILLATION OF WINES SUITABLE FOR PRODUCING CERTAIN WINE POTABLE SPIRITS WITH A REGISTERED DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN;
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(2) NEW PROVISIONS ON OENOLOGICAL PRACTICES AND PROCESSES CONCERNING THE COMPOSITION AND PROCESSING OF WINE BY SPECIFYING THE PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES WHICH MAY BE USED IN WINE-MAKING AND THE LIMITS OF THEIR USE;

(3) A REDUCTION OF THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE USED IN MAKING WINES OTHER THAN LIQUOR WINES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL RULES FOR MAKING WINES OF

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A SPECIFIC NATURE.

B. THE COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE DISTILLATION OPERATIONS. AMENDMENTS WERE ADOPTED RELATED TO THE DISTILLATION OF WINE-MAKING BY PRODUCTS AND TO THE PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISTILLATION OPERATIONS. THE 1977/78 WINE MARKETING YEAR PRICES FOR THE COMPULSORY DISTILLATION OF WINE-MAKING WERE FIXED AT 0.57 U.A./DEGREE/HECTOLITRE AS THE BUYING-IN PRICE OF WINE PRODUCT DELIVERIES AND AT 0.91 U.A./DEGREE/HECTOLITRE AS THE ALCOHOL PRICE FOR DELIVERIES OF WINE PRODUCTS PRODUCED FROM MARCS, LEES, WINE. THE CONTRIBUTION FROM THE GUARANTEE SECTION OF FEOGA FOR THE DISTILLATION OPERATIONS HAS BEEN SET AT 0.25 U.A./DEGREE/HECTOLITRE.

C. THE COUNCIL POSTPONED UNTIL ITS NEXT MEETING DISCUSSIONS RELATED TO THE AVERAGE PRICES AND WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES FOR TABLE WINES, AS WELL AS THE ACIDIFICATION OF CERTAIN WINES.

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8. POULTRY MEAT: THE COUNCIL ADOPTED AN AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATION CONCERNING STANDARDS FOR THE WATER CONTENT OF FROZEN AND DEEP-FROZEN CHICKEN, HENS, AND COCKS. HOWEVER, THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS REGULATION WAS DELAYED FOR 3 MONTHS DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES. AT ITS NEXT MEETING, THE COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS DEROGATION FROM THIS REGULATION WITH REGARD TO EXPORTS OF THESE PRODUCTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

9. OTHER: A NUMBER OF REGULATIONS AND AMENDMENTS WERE APPROVED AS A POINTS BY THE COUNCIL. THESE CONCERNED CODEX STANDARDS FOR SUGARS INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION; THE TRANSFER TO ITALIAN INTERVENTION AGENCY OF NFDM HELD BY OTHER MEMBER STATES' INTERVENTION AGENCIES; THE TRANSFER TO ITALIAN INTERVENTION AGENCY OF COMMON WHEAT HELD BY THE GERMAN INTERVENTION AGENCY; THE ENTRY OF CERTAIN CHEESES UNDER CERTAIN TARIFF HEADINGS; SPECIAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO TRADE IN TOMATO CONCENTRATES AND PEELED TOMATOES BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE NEW MEMBER STATES; THE THRESHOLD PRICES FOR HUSKED RICE AND BROKEN RICE FOR 1977/78 AND THE CERTIFICATION OF HOPS. THESE WILL APPEAR AS THE REGULATIONS APPEAR IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL.

10. THE COUNCIL ALSO APPROVED A NEW DEFINITION OF ISOGLUCOSE AMENDING THE ONE IN REGULATION NO. 2742/75

ON PRODUCTION REFUNDS IN THIS SECTOR. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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